



FALL 2003

---

# Louisiana COASTLINES

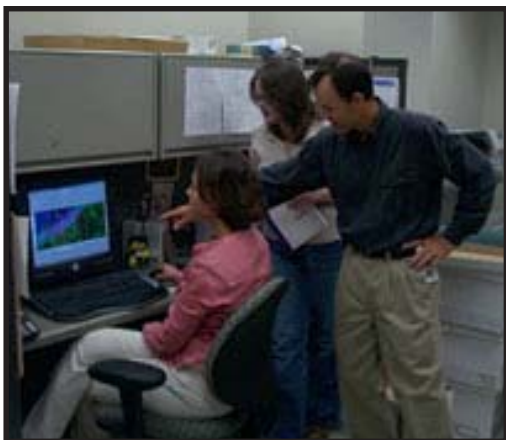
---

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

---

## Pipeline Map and Database Produced for State

The U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS) and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) signed a cooperative agreement two years ago, to produce a map and maintain a database of pipelines



**CMD Project Manager Karl Morgan with consultants Ana Young and Sarah Duncan.**

in the offshore waters of the state of Louisiana. MMS and DNR have now completed the project which involved many man-hours, research, and GIS (geographic information systems) expertise.

In Louisiana, several state agencies have varying regulatory authority over pipelines in marshlands and offshore waters that abut of federal waters. Since the Coastal Management Division (CMD) of DNR has regulatory authority to permit pipelines in the Louisiana coastal zone, both agencies agreed that DNR would be the most appropriate entity to maintain the database of pipelines in the state offshore waters. MMS is also currently working with other states to incorporate into their databases, the

location of pipelines, as mandated in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

From the onset, DNR Coastal Resources Scientist Manager Karl Morgan said this joint mapping agreement began with two goals; to map pipelines permitted by CMD in the entire coastal zone, and then to capture all of the pipelines installed in state offshore waters prior to the inception of the CMD permitting program in 1980. Several outside agencies and the federal government were relied upon for specific data, records, and research as the DNR managers compiled and completed their work.

The mapping and database for the pipelines were developed by using a state of the art geographic information system. Considered a powerful technological tool, GIS allows any digital data to be overlaid upon other data sets with analysis performed through searching or querying any of the data fields or by location. The sources of data used to map the offshore pipelines include the CMD permit files, MMS files, the Louisiana State Land Office/ Rights of Way, the Pipeline Safety Division at DNR, and the Louisiana Geological Survey.

Companies and contractors that work in the oil and gas field,

**Cont. on page 2**

---

government agencies, oil spill response teams, and industries such as shipping and fishing, that operate in state waters benefit from knowing where pipelines are situated so as to avoid damaging lines during their operations. Having and maintaining the database and pipeline map will provide a means of quick notification to all the necessary authorities that respond to leaks or spills.

As the project was being finalized, DNR worked with the Louisiana State Police to provide the

data since they are the designated first contact for oil spill notification and response in Louisiana waters. Morgan said the data is not yet available to the public since homeland security issues are being reviewed.

However, State Police and the U.S. Coast Guard will have the new pipeline map for use in responding to incidents. State Police should be contacted at 877/925-6595, if anyone sees or witnesses a spill or incident in Louisiana state waters.

\*\*\*\*\*

---

## State and Corps Present New Permit Form

By: Rocky Hinds

Coastal Resources Scientist Manager (DNR)

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in conjunction with the New Orleans District Corps of Engineers, will soon present a new Joint Permit Application form for permitting work within the Louisiana Coastal Zone.

As part of our ongoing efforts to streamline the permitting process and to make our application procedures more user-friendly, we have worked extensively with form design experts and stakeholders to eliminate unnecessary information requests, to ask our questions in a manner which will better elicit the essential information, and to organize the application document in a more logical manner than the form currently used. The goal has been to ensure that applicants are able to provide the regulatory and commenting agencies with the basic data needed to begin reviewing the proposed project from the very first

submittal. We hope this will eliminate the time delays and frustrations experienced by many applicants in the past.

To introduce the form and explain changes and new procedures, CMD staff will host a series of outreach meetings across the coastal zone. The meetings will allow for an opportune time to ask questions and get answers. We believe this new form simplifies the process for CUP, Section 10, and Section 404 permitting activities.

The Joint Permit will be available at the following website address **[www.dnr.state.la.us/crm/coastmgt/cup/cup.ssi](http://www.dnr.state.la.us/crm/coastmgt/cup/cup.ssi)**.

Should you have questions or comments about the Joint Permit Application form, please feel free to contact Rocky Hinds by phone at 225/342-7591 or 800/267-4019 or e-mail at **[rockyh@dnr.state.la.us](mailto:rockyh@dnr.state.la.us)**.

\*\*\*\*\*



---

# DNR Welcomes David Frugé



Meet David Frugé. Chosen in July of this year to lead the Department of Natural Resources' Coastal Management Division, "Dave" is no stranger to the DNR family.

He has invested a lot of his professional life in coastal issues, projects, and conservation. Frugé's career of public service is admirable, having spent 32 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The term "administrator" fits him like a perfect hand-in-glove. As head of the Louisiana Field Office for the USFW's Ecological Services Program located in Lafayette for 21 years and as a CWPPRA Task Force member for 8 years, he has what it takes to serve wisely and effectively.

He hails from Crowley, LA and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in zoology from the University of Southwestern Louisiana and a master's degree in biology from Northeast Louisiana University.

He recently outlined to the CMD staff what he considers top priorities as he begins his work with them. Many of his colleagues have noted that his reassuring smile and pleasant nature complement his

knowledge and determination for positive results.

He sees the streamlining of the coastal zone permitting process and the rollout of a new "joint" permit application as first and foremost. He also says ensuring continued compliance with the state's Conservation Plan is extremely important.

Frugé accepted the position after former CMD Administrator Terry Howey moved to the job of Administrator and Scientific Consultant to the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Coastal Restoration and Management. Howey served from 1988 to 2003.

The CMD staff is proud to have both Frugé and Howey in these leadership roles and wish them many successes.



**New CMD Administrator Frugé' meets with coastal staff on September 16, 2003.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## A Thank You to Voters

Voters overwhelmingly favored state constitutional amendments 1, 2, and 3 on October 4<sup>th</sup>, measures critical to gaining federal help for coastal restoration. Amendments 1 and 2 garnered over 60 percent of the vote while Amendment 3 passed with 59 percent of voter approval.



---

# Louisiana Regional Restoration Planning Program

Federal and state natural resource trustees have developed the first statewide Regional Restoration Planning Program (RRP). The program is to assist the trustees in carrying out their Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) responsibilities to restore resources injured by oil spills.

NRDA is the mechanism by which the trustees pursue damages from responsible parties to compensate the public for any injuries to natural resources.

The goals of this statewide program are to: 1) expedite and reduce the cost of the NRDA process; 2) provide for consistency and predictability by describing in detail the NRDA process, thereby increasing understanding of the process by the public and industry; and 3) increase restoration of lost natural resources and services.

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and the state Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act of 1991 are the principal laws that govern the program.

The development of the RRP was coordinated among state and federal agencies, local governments, and the public. The RRP will be jointly administered and used by the trustees to assist in carrying out their natural resource trust mandates under the federal and state laws.

Based on an evaluation of programs and available data, the state has been divided into nine regions. Each of the nine regions will have a regional restoration plan.

The plan will identify: 1) the

natural resources/services that are likely to be injured by an incident; 2) the appropriate restoration types for each of the potentially injured resources/services; and 3) the available restoration projects identified in the region.

Over the summer months, public hearings and comments were taken for the Draft Programmatic Impact Statement and the RRP for Region 2. The program coordinators are finalizing the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and the final document is expected in late fall 2003.



**Natural Resources trustees are responsible for field work in nine regions of the state.**

For additional information, please contact Karolien Debusschere, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, Office of the Governor, 150 Third Street, Suite 405, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, Phone 225/219-5800, Fax 225/219-5802, or visit the websites:

**[www.darp.noaa.gov](http://www.darp.noaa.gov)**  
**[www.losco.org](http://www.losco.org)**

\*\*\*\*\*



---

# Underwater Obstructions Notice and Coordinates

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that 31 claims in the amount of \$102,870.06 were received for payment during the period July 1, 2003 - September 30, 2003. There were 31 claims paid and 0 claims denied.

Loran coordinates of reported underwater obstructions are:

27923	46857	TERREBONNE
-------	-------	------------

Latitude/Longitude coordinates of reported underwater obstructions are:

27 88.100	89 26.874	ST BERNARD
29 03.574	90 15.514	LAFOURCHE
29 04.140	90 48.251	TERREBONNE
29 05.060	90 58.322	TERREBONNE
29 07.362	90 56.553	TERREBONNE
29 07.442	90 34.388	TERREBONNE
29 08.230	88 58.620	PLAQUEMINES
29 11.720	91 06.050	ST CHARLES
29 12.693	90 33.559	TERREBONNE
29 12.916	90 56.963	TERREBONNE
29 14.031	89 55.000	JEFFERSON
29 15.886	89 56.425	JEFFERSON
29 15.500	91 20.360	TERREBONNE
29 26.894	89 58.448	JEFFERSON
29 27.375	89 41.521	PLAQUEMINES
29 27.548	90 03.335	LAFOURCHE
29 35.220	89 32.324	ST BERNARD
29 38.122	89 24.284	ST BERNARD
29 39.037	90 02.592	JEFFERSON
29 42.561	89 53.088	PLAQUEMINES
29 44.222	89 25.624	ST BERNARD
29 44.929	93 14.894	CAMERON
29 46.000	93 23.930	CAMERON
29 51.760	89 16.340	ST BERNARD
29 55.240	89 28.155	ST BERNARD
30 03.149	89 14.269	ST BERNARD
30 03.780	90 02.470	LAFOURCHE
30 08.962	90 05.763	ORLEANS
29 25.750	89 18.138	PLAQUEMINES

A list of claimants and amounts paid can be obtained from Verlie Wims, Administrator, Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund, P.O. Box 44277, Baton Rouge, LA 70804 or you can call 225/342-0122.

\*\*\*\*\*





---

# Act 48 Creates Crab Trap Removal Program



An example of how discarded crab traps affect boaters in state waters.

**By Susan Gros, reprinted with permission from LA Sportsman Magazine, October 2003.**

Act 48 of the 2003 legislative session was overwhelmingly approved earlier this year, paving the way for Louisiana to follow other coastal states in removal of abandoned crab traps from local waters.

The number of crab traps in Louisiana waters has seemingly exploded during the past decade, with navigation of some waterways becoming treacherous because of all the white buoys floating above the wire cages.

Successful end results would mean a healthier crab population and easier navigation.

The program calls for all crabbers to pull their traps from the water for a couple of weeks. Between the opening and closing dates, any traps remaining can be collected by anyone who happens along. The season won't be closed statewide, however.

The dates for the first step of the program were set for Feb. 28 through March 14 during the monthly meeting of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

"It was decided that the best approach was to target one specific area at a time due to the vast amount of coastline to be covered," said Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologist Vince Guillory. "Logistically, it would be impossible to target the entire coastline in Louisiana."

The reason for this stepped approach is simple. "Our estuaries

are different than say Texas," he added. "We have thousands of miles of exposed banks to clean. The resources required for a statewide cleanup would be massive. The program is volunteer-based," he said.

Volunteers are critical and essential to the success of this project," Guillory said. "We will be enlisting help from those with shallow-draft boats to get into the marsh for trap removal."

There also were concerns that closing the season statewide for two weeks would hurt the commercial blue crab industry, Guillory said.

The first area to be targeted during the winter closure includes a portion of Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes. All legal traps should be pulled from the water by 6 a.m. on Feb. 28. The closure ends at 6 a.m. on March 14. During this 16-day period, any remaining traps, whether fishable or discarded, may be removed by any interested party. But those traps must be brought to a designated drop-off spot where they will be crushed and properly disposed of.

Recent studies show that, in addition to blue crabs, ghost traps continue to trap and kill fish such as red drum, flounder and black drum. Other animals including raccoons, otters, birds and turtles also have been found inside traps, where they become trapped and drown.

The commercial crab fisherman is also adversely impacted by the loss of traps. By removing all of the abandoned ghost traps, crab fisherman should reap the benefits of a higher catch of quality blue crabs,

**Cont. on page 7**



---

Guillory said.

Traps that are abandoned or damaged also pose a navigational hazard to recreational boaters and fishers when they become entangled in the props of their vessels.

Additionally, old discarded traps create visual pollution and when washed ashore, may cause damage to sensitive estuaries and marine habitats.

Once collected, the traps will be stockpiled in a designated on-shore location, where volunteers will remove all buoys and ropes, dispose of any contents of the traps and crush them for possible recycling or disposal.

The program is operated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and for more information visit [www.blue-crab.net/derelict.html](http://www.blue-crab.net/derelict.html).

\*\*\*\*\*

## Wetlands Identification: Important to Buyers

As notice to potential property owners in the coastal zone: Please be aware that much of the land in south Louisiana is considered "wetlands." Wetlands typically include marsh, swamps, bottomland hardwoods, and pine savannahs/flatwoods. State and federal laws require permits from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Management Division (CMD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) before developing property containing wetlands. If construction of a new home or busi-

ness will result in the destruction or damage of wetlands, usually mitigation is required. Creating, restoring or enhancing other wetland habitat is the purpose of mitigation regulations. In south Louisiana, mitigation credits can easily cost \$7,500 to \$10,000 or more, per acre of wetland impacted. Those costs should be kept in mind when shopping for property, a new home, or business. Questions about requirements, mitigation or land management, contact CMD at 225/342-7591 (or 800/267-4019) or the Corps at 504/862-2271.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Upcoming Outdoor Events

#### **October 2003 Experience Atchafalaya Days**

Various events in the basin throughout the entire month.

[www.experienceatchafalaya.com](http://www.experienceatchafalaya.com)

#### **November 8 Second Annual LA Book Festival**

State Capitol, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

[www.louisianabookfestival.org](http://www.louisianabookfestival.org)

#### **December 7 Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge/ New Orleans Area**

Behold flocks of ducks, ibis, and other beautiful creatures.

[www.savourlakes.org](http://www.savourlakes.org)





Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 44487, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487

PRESORT  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
BATON ROUGE  
LA  
PERMIT # 936



This public document was published at a cost of \$993.18. Fifteen-hundred copies of this public document were published in this printing at a cost of \$993.18. The total cost of all printings of this document, including reprints, is \$993.18. This document was published by the Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 44487, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70804, to inform the public about Coastal Zone Management under authority of 16 U.S.C. 1451, et seq., and La. R.S. 49:214.21 et seq. This material was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to La. R.S. 43:31.

Financial assistance was provided by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, administered by the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

## Notice to Coastlines Readers

Coastlines is produced quarterly by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' Coastal Management Division with primary funding from NOAA. Subscribers have traditionally received this publication by mail but the department plans to transition to e-mail format by 2004. Therefore, the Fall and Winter issues will be the last printed format. We encourage you to become an E-subscriber, simply send an e-mail addressed to **info@dnr.state.la.us**. In the subject line type the words, "Subscribe Coastlines" and in the message type your full name and telephone number.

\*\*\*\*\*

